

# The State of **GRACE**

Continuing Studies in the Four States of Man

Therefore is **ANYONE**  
is in **CHRIST**,  
he is a **NEW**

creature;

the old things  
things passed away;

behold, **NEW**  
**THINGS**

have come.



2Cor. 5:17

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA

February 12<sup>th</sup>, AD 2023

# The LORD'S Day

The Twelfth Day of February, *in the Year of our Lord 2023*

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Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



## Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We are looking at the basic principles of the Reformation as a backdrop to our study on the views of Martin Luther with regard to the doctrine of sovereign predestination.

## Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:\* *"I Love to Tell the Story"* (#190, chorus only).

Invocation.\*

Hymn: *"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"* (#205).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 36:16-28.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Jesus is all the World to Me"* (#217).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Showers of Blessing"* (#209).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *"THE STATE OF GRACE."*

Closing Hymn:\* *"Jesus Saves!"* (#494).

Benediction.\*



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*\*The Congregation will please arise, if able.*



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Downloadable audio mp3 messages at [archive.org](http://archive.org) (@reesetpje)

Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!



**Week of Feb. 5 - Feb. 11**

Sunday School—6; Midweek—4

Morning Worship—20; Weekly Offering—\$871.<sup>00</sup>

**Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—6:30 PM.**

Daniel 5: The mysterious handwriting turns a night of revelry into a night of **HORROR!!**



## Africa Update



**From: Pastor Keith Merriman (2/7/23)**

Dear beloved brethren,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. I just spoke with Pastor Simon Peter Otudo. His wife Margaret fell off a motorcycle on Sunday and was in extreme pain.



She went to the hospital and she has two fractures in the femur in her left leg, the one bitten by the snake. They are putting her in a cast today and she

will be in the cast for about a month! She is the one who helps Simon Peter in and out of his wheelchair, etc. This is a very big challenge for the family. Please pray for peace and strength for Pastor Simon Peter and for quick healing for Margaret. Pray also that the church family will step up and help them over the next month or so.

Thanks for your prayers and gifts!!

God bless, Keith

## Africa Update



**From: Pastor Keith Merriman (2/08/23)**

Dear beloved brethren,

I spoke with pastor Salomon this morning. Mary is doing better the wound has dried up and healed about 1/3. She is not having to stay at the clinic but must return 2 or 3 times a week to have the wound checked. The antibiotic seems to be working. Thanks for all your prayers.

God bless, Keith

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## The Doctrine of Regeneration—the New Birth

by Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh, PA; 2/12/23

*John 3:3: “Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

REGENERATION (Matt. 19:28, Titus 3:5) is a work of sovereign Divine grace (John 1:13) in which God freely imparts new life unto the dead (*Eph. 2:1: “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...”*) by renewing our hearts—which, due to Original Sin, were antagonistic both towards God and the things of God (Eph. 2:3, 1 Cor. 2:14). In this mighty work, the Spirit recreates the human heart (Ezek. 36:26), and we are made *new creatures* (II Cor. 5:17)—with the inclination and capacity to love and adore God. In Jesus’ teaching unto Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), the language of the “new birth” is used, referring to a spiritual renaissance, or *birth from above*. Unless a man is born again, he cannot even *see*—let alone *enter*—the Kingdom of God (John 3:3)!!! To refer to a believer as a “born again-Christian” is descriptive, yet somewhat redundant. ALL true Christians are born again; indeed, if one has *not* experienced such a rebirth, he is therefore *unregenerate*, and thus—by definition—*not* a Christian (*John 3:7: “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”*). I Peter 1:23 tells us that believers “*have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*” Ultimately, it is the destiny of spiritually renewed and regenerated men and women to inhabit a renewed and regenerated Heaven & Earth (Rev. 21:1-8)!